

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10, has been amended to read as follows:

Advantageously, the hydrogenated inorganic compound is chosen from the group composed of alumina hydrates and magnesium hydroxide ($Mg(OH)_2$), while the inorganic boron compound is chosen from the group composed of boric acid (H_3BO_3), colemanite ($Ca_2O_{14}B_6H_{10}$), zinc borates ($Zn_2O_{14.5}H_7B_6$, $Zn_2O_{14.5}H_7B_6$, $Zn_4O_8B_2H_2$, $Zn_2O_{11}B_6$), boron carbide (B_4C), boron nitride (BN) and boron oxide (B_2O_3).

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 25, has been amended to read as follows:

After degassing, the mix is poured into the required mould where it sets, due to polymerization of the vinylester resin, and is transformed into an insoluble material. This is a ~~radical~~ radical type polymerization and it is highly exothermal. The setting time may vary depending on pour conditions (temperature, catalyst, accelerator content, etc.). Thus, the gel time may be varied by varying the percentages of catalyst and accelerator. The gel time varies from 20 minutes to 2 hours.

The paragraph beginning at page 15, line 14, has been amended to read as follows:

Table 1 also shows the density, hydrogen and boron contents, the vitreous transition temperature (T_g), the coefficient of thermal expansion (α), the specific heat (C_p) and the thermal conductivity (λ) of a material hereinafter referred to as the "*reference material*" formed after setting of a mix of the following constituents (25 minutes at 20°C), for comparison purposes:

- 32% by mass of this mix being the novolac-type vinylester resin of the Derakane Momentum® 470-300,
- 62% by mass of this mix being the alumina hydrate SH 150/01, and

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1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

- 6% by mass of this mix being a zinc borate $Zn_2O_{14.5}H_7B_6$ $Zn_2O_{14.5}H_7B_6$ (Firebrake ZB - BORAX), plus the accelerator NL 49P (0.9% by mass of the resin) and the catalyst Butanox® M50 (1.5% by mass of the resin).

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Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100